

*Supply—Fisheries*

work out a joint treaty with our friends in the United States similar to the sockeye salmon treaty to control this fishery.

One of the oldest international conventions is this one about which the hon. member for Esquimalt-Saanich told us a story last year, the international sealing convention. By 1914 the seal population in the Pacific had fallen to 150,000 because of ruthless killing. We now have a convention to protect them, and there are between 3 million and 4 million of them up in the Pribilof islands. Each summer the cows and their puppies come all the way from California by sea, and the bulls are up in the Bering sea in any event. We get 20 per cent of the annual kill, and we clear about a million dollars a year from our share in that operation.

One problem that arises is that when you have between 3 million and 4 million seals in the north Pacific eating fish at the rate of at least 20 pounds a day, a great deal of fish is consumed. The two seals we had in captivity at our biological station consumed 20 pounds of fish a day. At this rate of consumption the 3 million seals consume more fish than the population of Canada. The Japanese are very exercised about that, and want study made to ascertain whether or not it would be more economical to have fewer seals and more fish. That is one of the things we are looking forward to studying this summer.

The northwest Atlantic fisheries treaty is a new one, including 10 nations, and it covers what is, after 400 years of fishing, still the greatest fishing grounds in all the world, the Grand Banks. We are one of the 10 nations in that commission. This summer a new nation has been seen off the Grand Banks, when for the first time two Russian trawlers were sighted. As yet, Russia has not joined the northwest Atlantic commission. We are very proud of the fact that our deputy minister of fisheries, Stewart Bates, has been chosen as chairman of the northwest Atlantic commission. We are just as proud—I do not know if it was because he was the chairman—that the commission selected Dalhousie University in Halifax as its base of operations. It will be a good thing for the fisheries school down there and a good thing for the maritimes to have this great commission based in Halifax.

In the north Pacific we have a new treaty which was passed by parliament last year, the north Pacific treaty. It includes Japan, the United States and Canada and is concerned with the conservation of the great fisheries of the north Pacific. Here again, I was able to appoint a fisherman, a fisherman

[Mr. Sinclair.]

who was the son of a fisherman and the grandson of a fisherman, and who has fished over the entire coast, James Cameron. He has already attended the first meeting and has done very well. This appointment has given the fishermen of our province an increased confidence in that they have a direct voice in the proceedings of this international commission.

Here again I am even prouder to announce that the same Stewart Bates was selected as chairman of the north Pacific commission. Once again the pattern repeated itself and it was a Canadian university, the University of British Columbia, that was chosen as the permanent base of this new scientific commission to control the fisheries of the north Pacific.

One other treaty is the international whaling convention, and we are one of the 17 nations belonging to it. We have had, at various times, a number of whaling stations on the Atlantic coast. Whaling in the north Atlantic has greatly diminished, but we have one whaling station on the Pacific coast at Coal Harbour. Last year they killed 539 whales. The next meeting of the commission controlling whaling on the high seas, and which sets the methods by which whales can be killed, is going to be in Tokyo. It is of special interest to us because the north Pacific is the only area in which we do any whaling, and we share that whaling industry with Japan and Russia. There are two things of interest to us. There is the recommendation that, for the first time, a limit be put on the number of whales to be killed in the north Pacific. This is a matter of concern to our fleet.

Secondly, the meeting is going to discuss whether or not helicopters can be used to kill whales. Helicopters are now used to spot them, but as to whether or not they will be allowed to carry harpoons and kill whales is a matter that is on the agenda for study. This is of interest to us because we do not operate any large whaling boats but our operations are land based and might be suitable for helicopter operation.

In telling about the success we have had in working out these international treaties to conserve the fisheries on the high seas, I might mention one inland fishery that is extremely valuable and that is the great lakes fishery which we share with our neighbour, the United States. In recent years there has been an alarming decline in that fishery, and the reason for it has been an incursion of sea lampreys which feed by sucking the blood of the other fish. The lamprey is spreading throughout lakes Ontario, Erie, Huron and Michigan, and is